TL195

Petition for a Revision of East Timor Policy

---- We won't be a "sponsor" for invasion! ----

To Prime Minister Miyazawa Kiichi:

Indonesian invasion/ 200,000 victims/ Condemned by UN

In 1975 Indonesia invaded East Timor, then in the process of achieving independence from Portugal, resulting in the deaths of some 200,000 East Timorese. The United Nations General Assembly has adopted resolutions on East Timor eight times. These resolutions have condemned the invasion, demanded Indonesia's withdrawal, rejected Indonesia's annexation of East Timor, and affirmed the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination. Indonesia, however, ignored all of these resolutions and is right now continuing its unlawful occupation. It has been able to do this because of the tacit approval given to the invasion by major powers such as the United States and Japan.

Japan biggest source of economic aid to Indonesia/ Gave ¥240 billion in 1991/ Voted against every UN General Assembly resolution

In East Timor people say that Japan is supporting the invasion behind the scenes. This is because Japan voted eight times against UN General Assembly resolutions aimed at achieving a solution to the conflict and has gone on giving Indonesia more ODA (official development assistance) than any country in the world. The amount in 1991 came to ¥170 billion. (When the ¥65 billion in loans from Japan Export-Import Bank are added, the total economic assistance comes to approximately ¥240 billion.) And from Japan's perspective, Indonesia is the largest recipient of Japanese aid.

Four ODA "human rights criteria" breached/ Merciless repression by Indonesia's occupation forces/ Aren't we going to do anything?

In April 1991 then Prime Minister Kaifu announced ODA guidelines to link development assistance and world peace. These called for giving adequate consideration in the awarding of ODA to the recipient country's record on 1) military expenditures, 2) weapons export/import, 3) possession/development of nuclear and chemical weapons, and 4) human rights and democracy. Aid to a country with inordinate expenditures on the military, for instance, or to a country that represses basic human rights and democracy could, it seems, be cut back or even cut off. However, these principles are not being applied in any form whatsoever to Indonesia. And what is military invasion if not the ultimate human rights repression? Severe repression by the occupation army is taking place in East Timor right now, and a subcommittee of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, gravely concerned at the situation, is sending the "special raporteur on torture" in mid-November to investigate on the spot.

We can no longer keep silent

Japanese ODA is on a par with Indonesia's military budget (¥175 billion, 1987-88). As taxpayers we can no longer ignore what the Japanese Government is doing: supporting the Indonesian military regime by pouring in economic aid, while not condemning the invasion. We ask the Government to radically review its East Timor policy and to carry out the following, in order to contribute to a restoration of peace in East Timor:

--Please use every opportunity to urge Indonesia to respect the East Timorese people's right to self-determination.

--As a new member of the United Nations Security Council, please work at the United Nations to achieve a just exercise of the East Timorese people's right of self-determination.

--Based on the four ODA criteria, make the granting of Japanese ODA to Indonesia conditional on the Indonesian army's withdrawal from East Timor.

--Please make public the nature of the radio-wave monitoring station installed in Dili, East Timor as part of the Japanese ODA project, "Indonesian Radio Frequency Monitoring Project." And in order to prevent military use of this facility, please dismantle the actual equipment. The fear is that radio communication by the resistance is located by means of this facility and the transmission sites attacked.

Free East Timor! Japan Coalition
Participating organization ( )

Name Address